

I CLAIM:

1. A reversible plate holder to hold and support selectively first and second plates of different first and second diameters respectively, each plate having a base, tapered side walls and a rim extending radially outward from said side walls, said reversible plate holder comprising an annulus:

- 5           A. having axially spaced top and bottom parts with top and bottom edges of diameters D1 and D2 respectively and a neck part of diameter D3 axially between said top and bottom parts, where  $D1 > D2$  and  $D2 > D3$ ,
- 10          B. said top part having inner wall surfaces that define a truncated top cone,
- C. said bottom part having inner wall surfaces that define an inverted truncated bottom cone generally coaxial with said top cone,
- whereby said annulus in upright position has said cone at the top for supporting said first plate, and said annulus in inverted position has said bottom cone at the top for supporting said second plate, and said side walls of said plates overlie said conical wall surfaces respectively.

2. A reversible plate holder according to Claim 1 wherein said top, bottom and neck parts define a single cylindrical tube having generally uniform wall thickness.

20          3. A reversible plate holder according to Claim 1 wherein said inner wall surfaces defining said top and said bottom cones are generally flat as seen in sectional view extending axially from said top edge toward said neck part and from said bottom edge toward said neck part respectively.

            4. A reversible plate holder according to Claim 1 wherein said inner wall surfaces defining said top and said bottom cones are curved convexly as seen in sectional view extending axially from said top edge toward said neck part and from said bottom edge toward said neck part respectively.

5. A reversible plate holder according to Claim 1 wherein said inner wall surfaces of said top and bottom cones and said neck part define in sectional view extending axially a continuous convex curved line.

6. A reversible plate holder according to Claim 1 comprising an integral  
5 molded tubular cylinder.

7. A reversible plate holder according to Claim 6 wherein said annulus comprises injection molded plastic.

8. A reversible plate holder according to Claim 1 wherein said annulus has outer walls that define a generally straight circular cylinder, and said top,  
10 bottom and neck part walls are non-uniform in thickness.

9. A reversible plate holder according to Claim 1 wherein said top, bottom and neck parts have walls which extending axially are non-uniform in thickness.

10. A reversible plate holder according to Claim 1 wherein said top,  
15 bottom and neck parts have inner wall surfaces that are contiguous and define in axial section a continuous line devoid of any inward radial projections.

11. A reversible plate holder according to Claim 10 wherein said top, bottom and neck parts have outer walls that are contiguous and define in axial section a continuous line devoid of any outward radial projections.

20 12. A reversible plate holder operable to hold and support selectively first or second plates of different first and second diameters respectively, each plate having a base, tapered side walls and a rim extending radially outward from said side walls, said reversible plate holder comprising:

a base having top and bottom parts with top and bottom surfaces  
25 respectively and a neck part between said top and bottom parts,

said top part having a top truncated conical recess extending downward from said top surface, which top surface is coincident with the base of said top cone having first diameter D1,

said bottom part having a bottom truncated conical recess extending upward from said bottom surface which bottom surface is coincident with the base of said bottom cone having second diameter D2 which is less than D1,

said top surface which is radially outward of said top conical recess  
5 having diameter corresponding to the rim diameter of said first plate for supporting same when placed thereon, said bottom surface which is radially outward of said bottom conical recess having diameter corresponding to the rim diameter of said second plate for supporting same when placed thereon when said base is inverted.

13. A reversible plate holder according to Claim 12 wherein said base has  
10 outer side wall surfaces which define a circular cylinder coaxial with said conical recesses.

14. A reversible plate holder according to Claim 12 wherein said base has outer side wall surfaces which define a rectangular block.

15. A reversible plate holder according to Claim 1 wherein said rim of  
15 each of said first and second plates has radial width and curves downward, and said top and bottom edges respectively of said annulus having thickness adapted to be less than said radial width, such that said rim will overlie and extend over and partially around the outside of said edges, when said plate is positioned on said plate support.

20 16. A reversible plate holder to hold and support selectively first and second plates of different first and second diameters respectively, each plate having a base, tapered side walls and a rim extending radially outward from said side walls, said reversible plate holder comprising:

an annulus whose inside walls define truncated conical shapes of  
25 different diameters at opposite ends of said annulus, said top end adapted to support and hold a first plate whose side walls and rim correspond in diameter to said top end and said adjacent conical walls respectively, and to support and hold a second plate whose side walls and rim correspond in diameter to said bottom end when said reversible plate holder is inverted.